

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 04100 102232Z

16

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 IGA-02 /090 W  
----- 065440

R 101750Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4788

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11762: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER'S REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: STATE 204117

SUMMARY: NIGER IS AWARE OF ANOMALY IN ITS BEING ONE OF  
FEW ACP STATES TO RETAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES. HOWEVER  
SYSTEM IS LESS DISCRIMINATORY IN FAVOR OF EC THAN WAS  
ONCE THE CASE. PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS REFLECT DOMESTIC  
POLITICAL CONCERNS RATHER THAN DESIRE TO FAVOR NINE  
PER SE. WE SEE SOME HOPE OF FURTHER EVOLUTION TOWARDORFULLY NON DISCR  
IMINATORY TARIFF STRUCTURE END SUMMARY

2. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT,  
CHARGE CONVEYED CONCERN ABOUT REVERSE PREFERENCES TO  
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 04100 102232Z

MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY ALFIDJA SEPTEMBER 9.

ALFIDJA PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND, OF WHICH DEPT. ALREADY AWARE. IN AUGUST 1975, ACTING UNDER LOME CONVENTION, GON ISSUED DECREE SUBJECTING GOODS OF EC ORIGIN TO GENERAL IMPORT DUTIES PREVAILING FT OTHER COUNTRIES, THUS ELIMINATING REVERSE PREFERENCES THAT HAD EXISTED UNDER YAOUNDE CONVENTION REGIME. WHILE THIS MEASURE DID NOT ENTIRELY ELIMINATE DISPARITY IN TREATMENT ( THERE ARE A VARIETY OF OTHER TAXES AND FEES WHICH IMPACT ON IMPORTS ACCORDING TO THEIR SOURCE), IT RESULTED IN BETTER EQUALIZATION IN TERMS OF ENTRY. IT ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO RAISING CONSUMER PRICES SHARPLY.

3. IN EARLY MONTHS OF 1976 GON FOUND ITSELF CONFRONTED WITH MOUNTING, ACROSS-THE-BOARD INFLATION AND TOOK A POLITICAL DECISION TO AGJ IN PROMPT AND DRAMATIC WAY. IT DECIDED TO REDUCE TAXES ON A VARIETY OF CONSUMER GOODS AND DECREED DUTY FREE ENTRY FOR MANY CONSUMER STAPELES. QUICKEST FIX FOR OTHER IMPORTS ALFIDJA SAID WAS TO AMEND AUGUST 1975 DECREED THUS IN APRIL 1976 GON LOWERED TARIFFS ON IMPORTS FROM EC BY 50 PERCENT. MINISTER SAID PRICE CHANGES ON SUCH IMPORTS - WHICH ARE ITEMS IN MOST COMMON USE AND COMPRISE 66 PERCENT OF NIGER'S IMPORT TOTAL - TNED TO BE REFLECTED VERY QUICKLY ON LOCAL MARKETS AND THIS WAS GON'S BASIC GOAL.

4. MINISTER SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT ACTION WAS HASTY AND THAT WHILE THERE WAS INEVITABLY AN ELEMENT OF DISPARITY IN TREATMENT, NO OVERT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NON EC COUNTRIES WAS INTENDED. HE STRONGLY ASSERTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PRESSURE FROM ANY OF THE NINE. GON, ALFIDJA CONTINUED, INTENDS SOME TIME IN NEAR FUTURE TO BEGIN THOROUGH STUDY OF TARIFFS, OTHER CHARGES, CONSUMER PRICES AND GOVERNMENT REVENUE NEEDS IN WHICH REGIME FOR ALL IMPORTS WILL BE REVIEWED. WE SUGGESTED THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO LIFT RESIDUAL MEASURES AFFECTING EC AND NON EC IMPORTS IN UNEQUAL FASHION, A SITUATION WHICH WAS A CONTINUING CONCERN TO US AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 04100 102232Z

OVIG TO INCREASE OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HERE.

5. COMMENT: AS ALFIDJA REMARKED IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU SEE THE BOTTLE AS HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL. PREFERENCES NOW ACCORDED EC GOODS ARE ONLY HALF OF WHAT THEY WERE DURING ERA OF YAOUNDE CONVENTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, GON HAS RETREATED FROM POLICY WHICH PREVAILED FROM AUGUST 1975 UNTIL APRIL 1976

OF FULL APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 7 LOME CONVENTION.  
ON-AGAIN-OFF-AGAIN APPROACH TO PREFERENCES OVER PAST YEAR  
INDICATES THAT GON'S THINKING ON  
THIS MATTER IS AD HOC RATHER THAN DOCTRINAIRE, AND WE SEE  
NO SYSTEMATIC DESIRE TO HUE TO YAOUNDE ARRANGEMENTS  
ON PART OF GON. THIS PLUS GOVERNMENT AWARENESS  
THAT IT IS IN A DWINDLING MINORITY SUGGESTS THAT FURTHER  
EFFORTS ON OUR PART FROM TIME TO TIME TO GET RID OF  
REMAINING DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF TARIFF REGIME WILL  
BE WORTHWHILE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLICIES, PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS, FOREIGN TRADE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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